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at Mt. Hamilton) a preliminary orbit was computed. The elements and ephemeris are given in *Lick Observatory Bulletin*, No. III.

Dr. AITKEN states that "the comet as seen here on the first date was very small, round, with well-marked condensation, and almost equal to an eleventh-magnitude star in brightness." It is now receding from the Earth.

The observations are satisfied by a parabola. The comet has a retrograde motion, the plane of its orbit having an inclination of  $142^\circ$  to the ecliptic. Its nearest approach to the Sun was on March 12th, at which time it was 190,000,000 miles, or 2.05 astronomical units from it. The longitude of perihelion is  $50^\circ$ ; the longitude of the ascending node is  $96^\circ$ .

Having no later observations from the East, and not having one from Mt. Hamilton because of the position of the Moon and the continual rain in California, it has been so far impossible to obtain a second orbit.

STURLA EINARSON.

ESTELLE GLANCY.

BERKELEY ASTRONOMICAL DEPARTMENT, March 27, 1907.

#### NOTE ON COMET *b* 1906 (KOPFF).

This comet was discovered in March, 1906, by KOPFF, at Heidelberg. Its geocentric motion was very small. From a twenty-two-day arc a set of parabolic elements was computed by Mr. CHAMPREUX and myself and published with an ephemeris in *Lick Observatory Bulletin*, No. 97. The remarkable feature of the orbit is the great perihelion distance, 3.3 astronomical units. Because of its great distance from the Sun its heliocentric motion in the last year has been but  $50^\circ$ . The Earth has therefore overtaken the comet, and it was picked up again March 21st of this year by KOPFF. The residuals for this place from our orbit are (O-C)  $\Delta \alpha = -0^\circ.6$ ;  $\Delta \delta = +0^\circ.1$ . A change of about eight days in the time of perihelion passage will remove the greatest part of these. No attempt will be made to improve these elements on the basis of this year's observation since Professor WEISS has found and published in *A. N.* 4154 a set of elements and ephemeris which represent this place almost exactly. WEISS's elements have been deduced from observations extending from January, 1905, to May, 1906. The position of January, 1905, is from a

photographic plate by Professor WOLF, found after the comet had been discovered by KOPFF. More than 800 days have elapsed since this observation of January, 1905, so that, excepting the periodic comets, this comet holds the record for length of time during which it has been under observation. It is further highly probable that it will be picked up when the Earth overtakes it again next year.

RUSSELL TRACY CRAWFORD.

BERKELEY ASTRONOMICAL DEPARTMENT, March 30, 1907.

THE PROMOTION OF DR. AITKEN.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Dr. R. G. AITKEN has been promoted to the position of Astronomer in the Lick Observatory. It is unnecessary to say that this action on the part of the President and Regents of the University is thoroughly deserved. It would be difficult to speak too highly of Dr. AITKEN's scientific researches. His work on double stars is certainly unsurpassed in quantity, quality, system, and breadth of view.

W. W. CAMPBELL.

PROMOTION OF PROFESSOR LEUSCHNER.

The promotion of Dr. A. O. LEUSCHNER, Director of the Students' Observatory, from Associate Professor to Professor of Astronomy is another well-earned event which it gives us pleasure to record. Professor LEUSCHNER has built up one of the strongest and best of astronomical schools; and although his teaching, and administrative duties both inside and outside of his department, have been heavy, he has found time to make valuable investigations and to encourage and direct similar investigations by the assistants in his department. The publication of Professor LEUSCHNER's work on the Watson asteroids is awaited with interest.

W. W. CAMPBELL.

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